

I-405, Corridor Program

The I-405 Corridor Program is a WSDOT-sponsored, community based partnership to improve the entire 30 mile corridor of I-405. The improvements should relieve congestion and enhance movement of people and freight through the corridor over the next 20 to 30 years.

Why is WSDOT addressing the I-405 corridor?

I-405 serves as the backbone of the transportation network on the eastside of Lake Washington. It carries 280,000 people daily. In some locations, congestion can last up to 12 hours each day, impacting quality of life, the environment and economic competitiveness. With employment and population growth, traffic is expected to grow by over 50% in the next 20 years. Improvements must be made.

What is WSDOT Doing?

WSDOT, in partnership with over 24 other government and community organizations, has proposed four alternatives be considered. These are included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently out for public review and comment.

The end result

WSDOT plans to provide a package of improvements to reduce congestion and improve mobility, safety and environmental quality in the I-405 corridor.

What is being done to protect the environment?

WSDOT is working closely with federal, state (National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington State Fish and Wildlife, and Department of Ecology), and local agencies to ensure that all project-related potential impacts to the environment will be avoided, minimized and made up for. Typical efforts to reduce and/or make up for environmental impacts will likely include:

I-405 through Bellevue



Traffic Congestion on I-405



I-405 Map from Cover of EIS



- Providing storm water treatment – Retrofit of existing storm water facilities can improve the water quality for streams and rivers.
- Restoring habitat – Streams and watershed improvements can enhance wildlife habitat, fish passage, and water quality.
- Wetland enhancement and restoration – Steps could be taken to improve or enhance degraded wetlands within the corridor.

Noise reduction – Installing noise walls and natural features to reduce traffic and transit noise and soften the landscape.

What is the project timeline?

The draft EIS is out for review and comment through October 8, 2001. Send an email with your feedback. Three Open Houses and Public Hearings are scheduled. Dates and time for these meetings are posted on the web page.

After reviewing public feedback and the results of the EIS, the program committees will reach agreement on a preferred alternative in fall 2001.

How can I get involved?

- Visit the I-405 website, www.wsdot.wa.gov/I-405 to view the four alternatives, obtain additional information, find out about public meetings in your area, and to send us your comments.
- Attend EIS Public Hearings.
- Schedule a Community Briefing. Call 206.464.5878 to arrange a briefing by program staff for your community group.

Expenditure Plan per Biennium

	Prior Expenditures	Remaining Costs	Total
State and Federal Funds	\$4,991,000	\$10,989,000	\$15,980,000
Funded subtotal	\$4,991,000	\$10,989,000	\$15,980,000
Unfunded amount		\$6,723,700,000	6,723,700,000
Total Cost	\$4,991,000	\$6,734,689,000	\$6,739,680,000

Financial data is current as of 10/1/01.

*This plan is based on fully utilizing the Design-Build process and fully constructed within 10 years. Funded portion of project completes the Environmental Process from Tukwila to I-90

Project Facts

- I-405 is the second-most-traveled corridor in the state next to I-5.
- Over 60% of the jobs in the state are located along the I-405 corridor.
- More freight is carried on I-405 and SR 167 than comes through the Port of Seattle.
- Corridor growth is projected to result in a 56% increase in trips by 2020.
- The worst congestion in the corridor is through Renton (between I-5 and I-90) that lasts up to 12 hours each day.
- In 2020, there are expected to be over 85,000 daily transit trips made within the I-405 corridor.
- If we do nothing, most rush hour trips in 2020 will take 35-40% longer than the same trips today.

Financial Information

This program is in the early stages of the environmental documentation and design phases. The current overall project cost is estimated at \$6.7 billion. This cost is preliminary and subject so many sources of uncertainty, especially since the final preferred alternative has not been chosen. The Legislature appropriated \$11 million to continue this early environmental and design effort in the 01-03 fiscal year Transportation budget. This is short by about \$50 million (for the 2001-2003 biennium) of the amount necessary to support the current WSDOT schedule for continuation into the final design and right of way phases to prepare for the first stages of construction by 2004. This will require adjustment and slowdown of preliminary design schedules if additional revenue does not become available. To avoid this result, WSDOT is requesting \$50 million in the 2002 Supplemental Transportation budget.

How can I get more information?

For more detailed information contact:

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For travel information and construction updates, call WSDOT's Commuter Information Line at DOT-HIWY (206.368.4499) in the greater Seattle area, or toll free in Washington at 1.800.695.ROAD (1.800.695.7623) or visit us online at www.wsdot.wa.gov/traveler.htm.